

Background

- ❖ The traditional funding for school nursing has been educational dollars.
- ❖ As school district budgets tighten, the number of students with health needs continues to rise and the Affordable Care Act (ACA) puts increased emphasis on community care, new school health delivery models are emerging.
- ❖ There is limited study in this area. Anecdotal stories of wide variability exist.

Purpose

- ❖ The purpose of this study is to learn about nontraditional approaches to school health delivery.
- ❖ Differentiate between traditional and extended roles of school nurses
- ❖ Identify trends of strengths and weaknesses among the different school health delivery models.

Methods

- ❖ Qualitative descriptive design.
- ❖ Outreach to state affiliate leadership; Snowball sampling was also employed to expand identification.
- ❖ Semi structured telephone interviews
- ❖ The interview questions, based on the literature and reviewed by school health experts. Topics included:
 - funding,
 - staffing configuration,
 - strengths,
 - weaknesses,
 - history of their development, and
 - overall descriptions and impressions.
- ❖ Copious notes taken during interviews and shared with the interviewee to assure accuracy of the information.
- ❖ Data analyzed for common themes.



Preliminary Results

- ❖ 25 new school health delivery models have been identified (to date).
- ❖ Non-traditional funders include public health agencies, hospitals, and other community health organizations.
- ❖ Strengths include increased number of nurses and expanded school nurses' role, (surveillance, identification of social determinants of health).
- ❖ Improved communication between school health, public health, and health providers.

Conclusion

As health care reform continues and the emphasis on community based coordinated care grows, traditional roles like school nurses can be expanded with nontraditional funding sources. The expanded roles will help ensure students are safe, healthy, and ready to learn.